

## **September 28, 2021 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at the Empire Township Hall and President Davis led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. Council members Bacon, Barr, Chase, Dye, Palmer and Rademacher were present. Clerk Smith, Treasurer Nelson, DPW Superintendent Friend and Zoning Administrator Grobbel were also present.

**CLOSED SESSION – Motion by Bacon, support by Barr to go into a closed session per MCL 15.268(d) to consider the purchase or lease of real property. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting was reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

**Motion by Bacon, support Barr to complete a feasibility study to examine the following related to the consideration of the purchase of real property: structural uses, structural issues, funding options with a goal of being cost neutral after 20 years, brownfield development issues and public input sessions for residents and taxpayers along with a possible survey. \$5,000 for the study shall be paid by the Village of Empire with the remaining \$10,000 to come from a Rotary Charities Seed Grant. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – None.**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a voice vote, all voted aye. MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – Bob Scott commented on the requirements of the proposed Waterways Grant. Marie Scott commented on potential property purchase being discussed in closed session and the potential Waterways grant.**

**CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Dye, supported by Rademacher to approve minutes of Regular Meeting 8/24/21, Work Session 9/9/21 and approve Bills totaling \$9,059.90. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – Cash Balances by Fund from Treasurer agree with General Ledger. The Revenue & Expenditures by Fund thru 8-31-21 were also received.**

**COMMUNICATIONS – None.**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – ZA Grobbel reviewed upcoming possible proposals that have not yet been received. DPW Superintendent Friend reviewed his written report.**

**COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Bacon reviewed current Planning Commission activities. Minutes from the Streets Committee and the Water Committee were received and reviewed by Chairs Barr and Rademacher. Parks Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 5, 2021.**

**Motion by Bacon, support by Barr to amend the agenda to discuss the New Business – Sleeping Bear Marathon at this point. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**SLEEPING BEAR MARATHON PERMITS**– Proposed plans were summarized by Grobbel, and past problems were noted, and plans made to add such to future permit considerations. **Motion by Bacon, support by Palmer to approve the Mass Gathering Permit for the Sleeping Bear Run. Upon a voice Ayes: Bacon, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Chase, Davis. Nays: Barr. MOTION PASSED.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**SURVEY OF VILLAGE COMPLEX** - Motion by Palmer, support by Bacon to discuss the survey proposals. Motion by Dye, support by Bacon to accept the proposal from Grand Traverse Survey. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN PROPOSAL** - Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the proposal from Gosling Czubak not to exceed \$20K. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**DNR WATERWAYS GRANT ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION** - Motion by Palmer, supported by Barr to approve Resolution No. 10 of 2021 to accept the DNR Waterways Grant Program. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Palmer, Chase. Nays: Barr, Rademacher, Bacon, Dye, Davis. MOTION FAILED.**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROCESS UPDATE** - Per Section 125.3865 of the Michigan Planning and Enabling Act (Act 33 of 2008), Bacon moved to exempt the Planning Commission from the annual updating of the CIP and recommend the Village Council prepare and adopt the plan separate from the annual budget, but the process of gathering information from all committees and including the approved CIP shall remain the foundation upon which this update is created. Support by Rademacher. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**TREES -APPROVAL OF TREE COMMITTEE** – Motion by Bacon, supported by Rademacher to approve a Special Committee of the Council with a purpose to study, investigate, develop, and periodically update a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, or replanting of street trees and park trees. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.** Motion by Bacon, support by Barr to approve President Davis appointments of Bacon (Chair), Dye (Chair of Community Engagement and ReLeaf portion) and Smith. **MOTION PASSED upon a unanimous voice vote.**

**TREE REMOVAL** – Motion by Dye, support by Palmer to approve spending not more than \$5k on tree removal. Davis asked if this was a discussion of the proposal from Eric's Tree Service. Dye replied that was the intent of her motion. There was extensive discussion of how the list was formulated. Bacon expressed concern about the process used and Friend abruptly left the meeting. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT** – Barr stated that if anyone had comments on the Street Committee report they could call him at home. Chase asked about a septic system workshop shared by County Planning. Smith noted that Acton had posted helpful articles regarding trees and septic systems on the website.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 9:08 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

*These minutes were approved at the October 26, 2021, Regular Council meeting.*